

# Provincial Laboratory Services



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**Health PEI**  
One Island Health System

## COVID 19 Virus outbreak “OB 02” Response and Modification of Stat Testing

July 13, 2020

*This information applies to: Island Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, JRT Leaders, Testing Clinics, and CPHO*

We continue to evolve our testing capabilities on PEI to meet the demand on testing which places us in the top three jurisdictions in Canada for testing per Capita. This is going to increase in the short term.

Please consider the following to assist our testing goals:

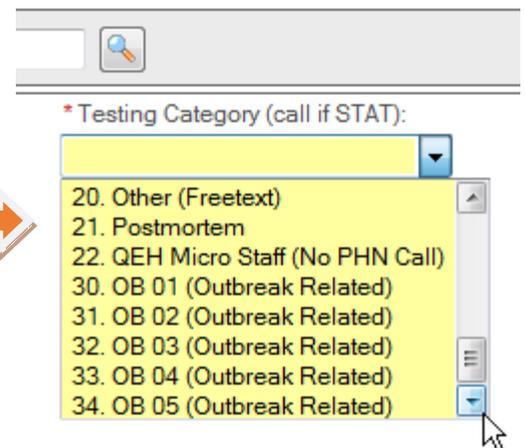
**1. Outbreak (OB) code identification.** Going forward either on the request form (if used) or on the electronic order entry please assign **OB 02** for this most recent event associated with the QEH. OB 02 is near the bottom of the selected fields (see box). Also write **OB 02** in permanent marker on the sample collection container. Future OB numbers for future outbreaks will be provided by public health / infection control. The OB code supersedes all other codes.

**2. Modified STAT processing, new CRITICAL processing:** We are changing current STAT process to move towards frequent windows. Samples received at QEH microbiology or hematology will be processed together to improve our ability to respond and conserve testing supplies.

Samples arriving at or before 8AM, 10AM, Noon, 2PM, 4PM, 6PM, 8PM, 10PM, 1AM, 3AM, 5AM. Will be processed within 2 hours of that collection window. Test request for this service still need be called in. Porters should be instructed to drop off these specimens to microbiology directly after 5AM and until 10PM and Hematology after 10pm until 5AM. This is only at the QEH facility for now. PCH will continue to process STAT samples as received. Wait at least two hours from a window before calling for results.

If there is a sample that needs to be run sooner than a window it should be considered CRITICAL and the physician should page the Microbiologist directly.

**3. ER On-Site Collection at the QEH** (Or near the ER through EMS) should be registered to the QEH and labels for the tube created if possible to facilitate processing.



**4. Electronic Order Submissions.** Please continue to use the appropriate testing category, AND add symptoms AND add if CPHO approved. Samples that do not have sufficient information in these fields can be delayed or require more history. We have received multiples requests that just indicate “COVID RAPID” for symptoms. Furthermore the information provided is used by our provincial epidemiologist for pandemic response.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance with the care of our patients. Dr. German can be reached at 902-894-2515 or through QEH Switchboard 902-894-2111.

***For more information, contact:***

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